On page 3 delete line 18 in its entirety and insert therefore --- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT** ---.

In The Abstract

Please amend the abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method to implement a column interleaving function, comprising the steps of:

- Providing a number of memories equal to the maximum number of columns in the interleaver function,
- Inputting a stream of data entities,
- Writing said data entities successively into a memory, until all memories are completely filled or until all data entities are written,
- Performing selection and permutation on said memories, and
- Reading out said data entities in said permuted memories, in a memory-by-memory fashion.

In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended)   Method to implement a column interleaving function, comprising the steps of:
- Providing a number of memories equal to the maximum number of columns in the interleaver function,
- Inputting a stream of data entities,
- Writing said data entities successively into a memory, until all memories are completely filled or until all data entities are written,